

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, There are 47 percent of children in South Dakota under 6 years of age in paid child care, more per capita than in any other state; and,

Whereas, South Dakota continues to have one of the highest percentages of working mothers in the country who rely on quality care for their children on a daily basis; and,

Whereas, Our state depends on 917 registered family day care homes, 93 licensed group family day care homes, 138 licensed child care centers, and 150 licensed before and after school care centers to provide quality care to 35,882 children; and,

Whereas, A child care provider's work is to create and maintain safe and healthy settings that promote children's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development; and,

Whereas, Children, parents, employers, and our communities all benefit from quality early childhood programs; and,

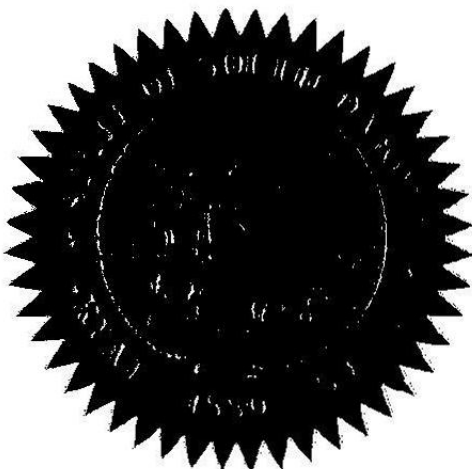
Whereas, Recognition should be given to all child care professionals who strive daily to enrich the lives of the children of South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2004, as

PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

in South Dakota, and I call on all parents and child care professionals to continue to sustain the high level of care afforded to the children of this state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.



M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest: *Chris Nelson*

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State